



Auto Body/Collision Repair

Hazardous Waste Determination: Mixing Cups

Hazardous waste determinations of all wastes are the responsibility of the generator.

Auto body paint contains solvents and sometimes heavy metals. If leftover paint in mixing cups is hazardous, it should not be dried out to allow solvents to evaporate prior to disposal. The solvents release volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that are dangerous to human health and to the environment.

If leftover paint from mixing cups is not able to be used in other projects (such as a base coat), the waste is subject to hazardous waste determination due to solvents and heavy metals. Refer to the [waste paint guidance](#) for further information. If the paint is determined to be hazardous, the cups must be emptied (see “empty” criteria below) and managed as hazardous waste. If the paint is determined to be non-hazardous and has been documented, the waste may be allowed to be left to dry in the cup prior to disposal.

Waste mixing cups are considered “empty” and thus exempt from the [New Hampshire Hazardous Waste Rules](#), under the following conditions:

- The mixing cup has had as much material removed as possible using practices commonly used to remove that material (pouring, pumping, scraping).
- No more than 3% by weight of total capacity of container.

Recycle plastic waste mixing cups if possible.

For questions on hazardous waste determinations, contact the Hazardous Waste Compliance Bureau at [\(603\) 271-2942](tel:6032712942) or hwcomp@des.nh.gov.

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